

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2026, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS C. WINSTANLEY CATHAOIRLEACH, D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, J. WARD AND N. WHELAN (29)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. J. BEHAN, P. FITZGERALD AND P. LEONARD, (3)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. J. CARROLL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. H. DENNEHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. S. MCCULLOUGH, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. H. PURCELL, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MS. R. GILLESPIE, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. P. CARMODY, LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR
MR. S. BOLGER, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings Administrator advised all present they are bound by the Code of Conduct for Councillors and Employees. Also, of meetings etiquette for online meetings and that the press and some members of the public were also present.

Votes of Sympathy

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mr. Alan Sheane, Mr. John Bowden, Ms. Hannah Large, Mr. Seamus Kelly, Mr. Larry Cullen, Mr. Pat Byrne, Ms. Rose Kennedy, Ms. Teresa Doyle, Ms. Mary Prendergast and Mr. Michael Kenna. A minute's silence was observed for the deceased.

The Elected Members extended their best wishes and congratulations to the following:

Kavin Venkatesan and the Irish Team for the upcoming Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

- Katie Taylor on her amazing win in Croke Park on Saturday night.

Request for Suspension of Standing Orders: - The Meetings Administrator advised that two requests for suspension of standing orders had been submitted in advance of the meeting. In accordance with the protocol adopted the requests were read to the meeting as proposed and seconded: -

Suspension No. 1

Cllr. D. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. Dr. C. Winstanley and supported by Cllrs. M. Barry, E. Doyle, J. Mulhall, P. O'Brien, W. O'Toole and J. Ward requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

'This Council calls on the Minister of Education and the Department of Education to address the severe delays in primary and secondary school building projects and provision of additional school places across county Wicklow. The population of the county has increased considerably in the past decade, up 14% between the Census in 2011 and 2022, with even higher growth rates in our main towns. Much of this growth in population is made up of young families moving into the area which is putting significant additional strain on primary and secondary school places. At the same time, there are school building projects that have been delayed for years and years with no end in sight for these extensions and new builds to be complete. Now the Government has requested our Council zones further land for housing to help address the housing crisis. This is a process which we are pursuing but we want assurances from the Minister and Department that future school infrastructure and capacity planning in the county reflects this new residential development.

Specifically, this Council would like a clear written update on the current stage, reason for delay, next milestone and indicative timeline on the building projects for primary and secondary schools across Wicklow as listed in the appendix to this motion.

Appendix:

*North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School, Bray
Temple Carrig, Greystones
Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School, Wicklow Town
Arklow CBS, Arklow
Blessington Community College, Blessington
Avondale Community College, Rathdrum
Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew
St Kevin's Community College, Dunlavin*

Newtownmountkennedy Primary School, Newtownmountkennedy
Woodstock Educate Together, Newtownmountkennedy
St Saviour's, Rathdrum
Blessington Educate Together Primary School, Blessington
Gaelscoil na Lochanna, Blessington
St Kevin's National School, Dunlavin
Nun's Cross School, Ashford
A new primary school for Wicklow Town, where the current ones are at capacity.

Suspension No. 2

Cllr. T. Fortune, seconded by Cllr. W. O'Toole requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

'That this Council supports the hundreds of thousands of Irish citizens who do not have children and who are subjected to punitive rates of inheritance tax when they die. That this Council calls on the Government and the Minister for Finance to rectify this gross injustice in the next Budget.'

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey and agreed by all to have a discussion on both topics at 4.30 p.m.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 6th July 2026.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. M. Corrigan and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 6th July 2026.

ITEM NO. 2

To consider the disposal of 1.7 acres or thereabouts in the townland of Corballis Upper, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow being the property known as Site No. 13 measuring 0.87 acre and Site 17 measuring 0.83 acre in the Avondale Business Park, Corballis, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow to Mordaunt Hire and Sales Ltd., 22 – 25 Harbour Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by way of a 999-year lease.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. P. Mahon and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 1.7 acres or thereabouts in the townland of Corballis Upper, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow being the property known as Site No. 13 measuring 0.87 acre and Site 17 measuring 0.83 acre in the Avondale Business Park, Corballis, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow to Mordaunt Hire and Sales Ltd., 22 – 25 Harbour Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by way of a 999-year lease, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 0.0934Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Mount Kennedy Demesne being the property known as 9 Church Road, Newtownmountkennedy to Kathleen Meuer as legal personal representative of Mary Cummins.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0934Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Mount Kennedy Demesne being the property known as 9 Church Road, Newtownmountkennedy to Kathleen Meuer as legal personal representative of Mary Cummins, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of 0.0052Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Enniskerry Td being the property known as 16 Millfield, Enniskerry to Rita Wall.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. Dr. C. Winstanley and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0052Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Enniskerry Td being the property known as 16 Millfield, Enniskerry to Rita Wall, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO.5

To consider the vacancy on the Housing Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. P. Stapleton.

Cllr. S. Bourke proposed Cllr. M. Corrigan to fill the vacancy on the Housing Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. P. Stapleton this was seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all. Cllr. Corrigan agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the vacancy on the County Wicklow Partnership arising from the resignation of Cllr. P. Stapleton.

Cllr. S. Bourke proposed Cllr. N. Whelan to fill the vacancy on the County Wicklow Partnership arising from the resignation of Cllr. P. Stapleton; this was seconded by Cllr. L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed by all. Cllr. Whelan agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the Taking in Charge of the following estate:

- **Holywell Grove, Kilcoole.**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune and agreed by all to the taking in charge of the following estate: Holywell Grove, Kilcoole.

ITEM NO. 8

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, August 2026.

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, August 2026.

Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Chapel Road, Greystones.
- Re-surfacing of roads, Newtownmountkennedy.
- Samuel Hayes Foot Bridge, Rathdrum.
- Criteria – suitability of properties.
- Funding – community use, Arklow.
- What levies are outstanding on 6 Arklow Sites.
- Flood Relief Scheme.
- Works at Killincarrig.
- Bus stop shelters.
- Update on RRDF – Baltinglass and Blessington.
- Park and Ride, Hollywood.
- Welcome development – Baltinglass and Dunlavin Fire Stations.
- Update on grants for older people.
- Line marking – Wicklow Town and surrounding areas.
- Chapel Lane, Glenealy.
- Premises in Blessington, ideally located.
- NTA – not funding Park and Ride, Hollywood.
- Clarification if meeting with TII going ahead.
- Discharge of wastewater – Harbour area, Arklow.
- Road markings, Tinahely village.
- Footpaths, Carnew.
- Energy retrofit programme.
- Update on expenditure on road maintenance.
- Flooding, Aughrim.

- Housing – Arklow and Aughrim.
- Admin fee of 175 – Rathnew Graveyard.
- Sewerage – Kippure Lodge.
- Relief road, Blessington.
- Lands at Troopersfield.
- Revised date – DART service to Wicklow Town.
- Lack of support services for families with addictions.
- Wicklow/Rathnew local transport plan.
- Phase 2 – Inner relief road, Rathnew.
- Call for Sites.
- Greenhill Road/ Dunbur Road – pedestrian crossings and cycleways.
- Notices to Quit.
- List of zoned lands.
- Affordable housing list.

Elected Members raised questions which were responded to by the Chief Executive and the relevant Director of Services.

ITEM NO. 9

To receive a presentation: Register of Electors – Migration project update.

Ms. R. Gillespie, A/Senior Executive Officer gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Electoral registration changes 2026.
- Electoral Reform Act 2022.
- Local Government Electoral Registration System (LGERS) Project.
- LGERS project milestones.
- Data quality & standardisation tasks 2025.
- Registration drives 2025/2026.
- Outcome year end 2025.
- Voter.ie – New National Electoral Registration System.
- Changes for electors.
- Changes for Local Authority users.
- Changes for Elected Members.

A short discussion followed in which the Elected Members raised queries to which Ms. Gillespie responded.

ITEM NO. 10

To receive a presentation: Progress report on the Local Community Safety Partnership.

Mr. M. Nicholson gave a short review of the Local Community Safety Partnership and following on Ms. P. Carmody, Local Community Safety Partnership Co-Ordinator gave a presentation highlighting the following:

- Wicklow Local Community Safety Partnership – established 1st December 2025.
- Statutory members.
- Community members.
- Steering Groups – domestic violence; roads & road safety; safe & secure at home; and anti-social behaviour.
- Local Community Safety Partnership overview and priorities.
- Community consultation activity.
- Community Safety Event – 29th April, Arklow Bay Hotel.
- Property marking training – 18th July.
- Tractor safety awareness by FRS Training Coolboy and Vallemount GAA.
- Nite programme 18+.

Following the presentation the Elected Members thanked Ms. Carmody for her presentation and expressed views and raised queries which were responded to by Ms. Carmody.

Suspensions of Standing Orders

Suspension No. 1

Cllr. D. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. C. Winstanley and supported by Cllrs. M. Barry, E. Doyle, J. Mulhall, P. O'Brien, W. O'Toole and J. Ward requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

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Specifically, this Council would like a clear written update on the current stage, reason for delay, next milestone and indicative timeline on the building projects for primary and secondary schools across Wicklow as listed in the appendix to this motion.

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A new primary school for Wicklow Town, where the current ones are at capacity.

Following a short discussion it was agreed by all to write to the Department of Education & Youth with an amendment to motion as follows: *'Also, the Elected Members request a representative from the Department to attend a meeting of Wicklow County Council to discuss the matter'* and to remove St. Kevin's National School, Dunlavin from the list.

Suspension No. 2

Cllr. T. Fortune, seconded by Cllr. W. O'Toole requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

'That this Council supports the hundreds of thousands of Irish citizens who do not have children and who are subjected to punitive rates of inheritance tax when they die. That this Council calls on the Government and the Minister for Finance to rectify this gross injustice in the next Budget.'

A short discussion followed. It was agreed by all to write to the Minister for Finance.

ITEM NO. 12

Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No. 1

Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. S. Stokes (Proposer), seconded by Cllr. P. Stapleton and supported by Cllrs. P. Leonard, P. Kennedy, L. Fenelon Gaskin, T. Fortune, E. Doyle, J. Mulhall and M. Duddy. (9th January 2026)

'The Councillors of Wicklow County Council express concern at the unilateral removal of their preferred email addresses from the Wicklow County Council website. Councillors must be permitted to interact with members of the public in the way they deem best serves the community. Going

forward Councillors shall be able to have their preferred email address listed on the Wicklow County Council website’.

Response

Cyber security threats pose a significant risk to modern organisations. One of the main protection measures put in place by Wicklow County Council to counter threats by cyber actors is to provide official council e-mail accounts to Council staff and Elected Members. The use of council email accounts protects the integrity of Wicklow County Council’s information systems through several ways, including:

1. Enhanced Security Monitoring - All WCC email accounts are actively monitored for breaches and suspicious activity. The same level of protection is not provided by non-Council personal email services.
2. Lack of Control Over Personal Accounts - The Council cannot manage or secure personal email accounts. This creates a significant risk when sensitive or official correspondence is conducted outside the Council’s protected environment.
3. Incident Investigation Capability - WCC maintains detailed logs for all activity on its email system, enabling thorough investigation of any suspicious incidents. This capability does not extend to personal email accounts.
4. Impersonation Protection - A VIP protection rule is in place to ensure that only emails sent from your official WCC email address are recognised as authentic. This helps prevent impersonation attempts and protects your identity in Council communications.
5. Rapid Threat Response - Suspicious or malicious emails sent to WCC accounts can be quickly identified and removed across the system. This level of response is not possible with personal email accounts.
6. Cybersecurity Training Integration - WCC has launched a cybersecurity awareness programme in line with industry standards. These are linked to official WCC email accounts. Councillors using personal email addresses exclusively will not receive training notifications or be included in simulations, reducing their preparedness against cyber threats.
7. Advanced Email Filtering and Intelligence Sharing - WCC email accounts are protected by a dedicated email security system that applies multiple layers of filtering and policy enforcement to block incoming threats. These protections are continuously updated based on intelligence shared by the Security Officers in other Local Authorities and the NCSC, ensuring proactive defence against emerging risks.
8. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – Under Article 5(2) of GDPR, Elected Representatives are considered Data Controllers, and therefore they must be able to demonstrate compliance regarding the processing of personal data. With the evolution of email threats from a cyber-security perspective, it is important that councillors’ email accounts are secure and protected. The use of a corporate email account provides increased security and reduces the risk of data breaches occurring.

For these reasons, it would be ill advised for Wicklow County Council to promote the use of non WCC email accounts on its own website. However, it is acknowledged that some members were experiencing difficulties with the use of their Wicklow County Council email accounts. To this end, the Council IS Security team reached out to all Elected Members to identify the specific issues, and a FAQ document was issued in response. Moreover, system enhancements were recently implemented by the IS Department which further improve the email functionality for both Council staff and Elected Members. A pilot for migration to Microsoft 365 was recently rolled out which involved 5 Elected Members. Following the

completion of this pilot, all Elected Members have now been moved to the M365 environment. The benefits of this new development include:

- Provision of self-release functionality which allows members to manage email blockages and aspects of email security directly, subject to completion of the Council's cyber training programme.
- Fewer emails being blocked due to size, as the incoming email size limit has been increased to 60MB, which is above the standard industry allowance.
- Elimination of the automatic removal of historical emails from inboxes.

Following a broad discussion in which the Elected Members raised concerns, the motion was passed by all.

Notice of Motion No. 2

Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. L. Scott (Proposer), seconded by Cllr. Dr. C. Winstanley and supported by Cllrs. M. Corrigan and Cllr. M. Murphy. (14th January 2026)

'The members of Wicklow County council call on the Executive to stop using the X platform immediately.

X, formerly known as Twitter, has become a vehicle for abuse, and the promotion of far-right, racist and divisive politics. Recently several regulators at home and abroad have launched investigations into X due to a potential criminal breach by X.

Grok the AI chatbot of X has been potentially breaching laws governing child safety and harassment communications.

Grok has been editing images under prompts from users and re-uploading said images back on the platform to reshare. Users have been requesting Grok to nudify images of women and minors.

This feature allows the creation of child sexual abuse material, and images of sexual harassment.

We call on Wicklow County Council to immediately cease posting on the X platform'.

Response

Wicklow County Council maintains a passive account on X which is used as a tool to communicate with members of the public in cases of emergency events such as flooding, road closures etc.

The motion was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 17 for, 5 against and 10 not present: -

FOR (17)	CLLR. D. ALVEY, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, T. FORTUNE, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, P. O'BRIEN, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, P. STAPELTON, J. WARD, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY
AGAINST (5)	CLLR. M. DUDDY, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, I. NEARY AND S. STOKES
NOT PRESENT (10)	M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, G. O'NEILL AND J. SNELL

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

CLLR. DR. CAROLINE WINSTANLEY
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

MS. RACHEL GILLESPIE
A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 5th October 2026.